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# Cuban Situation

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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*Cuban Situation Oct 22, 1962*

As I see it the President's hand has been forced by the build-up of Soviet Union's offense - media range and inter-media range missile sites and missiles.

The evidence presented to the Leadership in its meeting with the President was of such a nature as to indicate that this build-up was a fact and not a theory. The Leadership expressed its full support for the President and recognized that he and he alone had to make the decision in the light of all the facts available.

The President asked the Leadership to stay in Washington and be prepared for further meetings with him on the Cuban situation as evidence develops. He also stated that he and the Vice President would not participate any more in the present campaign.

Naturally, I will respect the President's wishes and stay in Washington for as long as he desires in view of the potential dangers involved in the course of action this government has undertaken.

The President discussed the contents of his speech in great detail before he gave it -- asked for anyone's opinion as he wanted to get all the views. The unanimous view of the Leadership was to support him in this crucial decision. Dangers involved were thoroughly reviewed and recognized that this may create situations in Berlin, the Middle East, Vietnam and elsewhere.

Even though all these matters were brought up in the discussion with the President, the Leadership is fully aware of all

-2-

dangerous possibilities involved. We can do nothing else now that the decision has been reached but give our full

support to the President of the United States who under our Constitution is charged with the awesome responsibility which is his.



*Cuba situation*  
*Oct 22, 1962 Statement of Senator*  
*Mansfield —*

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